

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2119

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 2215

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: GOP ROUNDS UP MAOISTS IN NORTHERN MINDANAO

REF: MANILA 1298

1. ON FEB 12, DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND) ANNOUNCED THE CAPTURE OF SEVEN MEMBERS OF CPP/ML AND NPA IN NORTHERN MINDANAO. DND ANNOUNCEMENT WAS LEAD STORY IN THREE MORNING DAILIES FEB 13. MOST PROMINENT AMONG THOSE PICKED UP WERE MACARIO TIU IDENTIFIED AS CPP/NPA RESEARCH DIRECTOR IN MINDANAO AND NEILA SANCHO, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE ALLIANCE GROUP OF THE CPP/NPA, MINDANAO REGION. SANCHO IS FORMER UP STUDENT AND BEAUTY QUEEN WHO WAS "QUEEN OF THEPACIFIC" IN 1971. ACCORDING TO DND, HER CAPTURE IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY LED TO ARRESTS OF OTHER MAOISTS IN SIMULTANEOUS RAIAD IN SAME CITY. DND PRESS RELEASE CLAIMS LATEST ARRESTS ARE RESULT OF INTENSIFIED SURVEILLANCE EFFORTS IN DAVAO AND ZAMBOANGA PROVINCES AS WELL AS CAGAYAN DE ORO. THIS SURVEILLANCE UNDERTAKEN AS A RESULT OF "REVELATIONS" BY PREVIOUSLY CAPTURED NPA MEMBERS (REFTEL).

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2. ALL PRESS ACCOUNTS CARRY ALMOST VERBATIM DND PRESS RELEASE LANGUAGE THAT PREVIOUSLY CAPTURED NPA MEMBERS DISCLOSED "THE EFFORTS OF THE SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENT TO UNITE AND MOBILIZE STUDENTS, INTELLECTUALS, THE PEASANTRY, LABORERS, SQUATTERS, AND RELIGIOUS AND CIVIC SECTORS AND ALL DISGRUNTLED GROUPS WITH GRIEVANCES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT IN AGITATION, PROPAGANDA AND MASS ACTION, ESPECIALLY IN THE URBAN CENTERS, IN ORDER TO FOMENT PUBLIC DISORDER."

3. COMMENT: WHILE INDIVIDUALS ROUNDED UP IN CAGAYAN DE ORO HARDLY IN CALSS WITH MAOISTS APPREHENDED IN LATE JANUARY, THEY WERE IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF NPA. EXTENSIVE COVERAGE GIVEN LATEST ARRESTS PARTIALLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO FILIPINO FASCINATION WITH BEAUTY QUEENS. IT MAY ALSO BE INTENDED TO UNDERSCORE COMPETENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF MILITARY WHO HAVE RECENTLY BEEN UNDER THE GUN FOR MISBEHAVIOR AND INDISCIPLINE (SEE MANILA 1950) AND PROVIDE RATIONALE FOR CONTINUED STRONG MEASURES AGAINST OTHER OPPOSITIONISTS (STUDENTS, LABOR, CHURCH) AS WELL.
SULLIVAN

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